



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending April 15, 2012

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Excellent Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 6 days suitable for field work. The weather has remained mild this week with the exception of one instance of snow reported. Many farmers are hoping to see a little more precipitation to aide spring plantings and pasture growth. Farm activities for the week included manure spreading, machinery maintenance, and seeding. Spring plowing is underway and is 59% complete, which is ahead of the 8% reported at this time last year and the 5-year average of 27%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 15, 2012

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
2	42	56	0

Crop Progress: Corn planting is underway and is 5% complete ahead of the planting stage at this time last year and the 5-year average of 2%. Barley is 5% headed. The year's oats crop is 78% planted, ahead of the 3% at this time last year, and the 5-year average of 27% with 42% emerged. Tobacco beds are 74% planted, ahead of the 61% during this week last year, and ahead of the average of 35%. Apples are 83% in the pink with 65% in or past full bloom.

Crop Condition: State-wide winter wheat conditions are; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 9% fair, 59% good, and 30% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 1% very poor, 4% poor, 28% fair, 42% good and 25% excellent.

Nationwide as of April 08, 2012: Continuing this spring's trend, temperatures in the heart of the country remained well above average during the week, promoting a rapid development pace for small grain crops and providing ample days suitable for fieldwork as producers plant this year's row crops. Most notably, temperatures averaged more than 12°F above normal in portions of the northern Great Plains and western Corn Belt. Elsewhere, temperatures west of the Rocky Mountains were below average. Precipitation was scattered across the nation, but areas in the northern

Rocky Mountains, central and southern Great Plains, and Delta received amounts totaling more than four times the weekly normal. Conversely, many other locations across the United States received less than 2 percent of their normal weekly precipitation, compounding the effects of already short moisture supplies.

Corn: Producers planted 4 percent, or approximately 3.8 million acres, of the nation's intended corn acreage during the week. At 7 percent complete, progress was 4 percentage points ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of the 5-year average. This was the quickest corn planting pace on record. Planting advanced at least 27 percentage points in Kentucky and Tennessee, where warm, mostly dry weather provided ample time for fieldwork during the week. **Winter Wheat:** Overall, 61 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up 3 percentage points from last week and 25 points above the same time last year. Favorable weather conditions across most of the major growing regions helped to improve crop conditions during the week. Compared with this time last year, the portion of the winter wheat crop rated very poor to poor decreased from 37 to 6 percent in Kansas, 60 to 4 percent in Oklahoma, and 66 to 31 percent in Texas. **Small Grains:** Sixty-two percent of the oat crop was seeded by week's end, 22 percentage points ahead of last year and 21 points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, progress was 12 percentage points or more ahead of the normal pace in all estimating states except Texas, where seeding had been complete since December. Nationally, 41 percent of the oat crop was emerged by April 8, five percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Barley producers had seeded 15 percent of this year's crop by week's end, 10 percentage points ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of the 5-year average. Seeding was at or ahead of the average in all estimating states except Washington, where temperatures have been below normal and precipitation has left some soils too wet for fieldwork.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 15, 2012

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 15, 2012					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	61	31	46	1	0.19	3	0.21	-1.41	5	9	5	62
Franklin_AG	59	28	42	-3	0.35	3	0.36	-1.38	4	0	-4	48
Meadville-Port	60	30	45	2	0.41	3	0.42	-1.23	4	8	8	72
Clarion	62	26	41	-7	0.45	4	0.45	-1.35	4	0	-7	34
Springboro	60	27	43	-3	0.51	4	0.52	-1.03	5	0	-6	39
Warren	64	28	43	-2	0.18	3	0.21	-1.53	4	0	0	41
North Central												
Bradford Region	61	24	43	2	0.21	3	0.24	-1.41	4	5	5	46
Oswayo	65	17	41	-3	0.32	3	0.45	-1.06	4	0	0	27
Kane	62	22	40	-2	0.33	3	0.39	-1.41	5	0	0	18
Laporte	63	30	44	-2	0.29	3	0.61	-0.98	5	5	-3	43
Lock Haven	70	28	47	0	0.17	3	0.32	-1.18	5	5	-3	101
Coudersport_1SW	64	21	40	-4	0.29	4	0.34	-1.17	6	0	0	16
Renovo	70	28	46	-1	0.14	3	0.23	-1.27	5	3	-5	92
Ridgway	65	23	42	-1	0.23	3	0.31	-1.34	4	0	0	41
Stevenson Dam	69	27	45	3	0.25	3	0.38	-1.27	4	1	1	78
Towanda	70	30	46	0	0.12	2	0.61	-0.78	4	1	-7	54
Wellsboro	66	26	43	2	0.20	3	0.38	-0.73	5	0	0	37
Williamsport	72	30	51	3	0.09	3	0.20	-1.39	5	30	11	138
Northeast												
Hawley	69	26	44	0	0.12	2	0.22	-1.43	4	3	3	35
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	69	28	49	3	0.08	3	0.38	-1.04	5	20	12	100
Susquehanna	69	29	45	4	0.38	3	0.77	-1.01	4	3	3	49
West Central												
Butler	64	29	44	-4	0.38	3	0.43	-1.11	4	1	-8	77
New Castle	62	28	45	0	0.36	3	0.41	-1.09	4	2	0	82
Slippery Rock	66	28	45	0	0.29	4	0.29	-1.26	4	0	-1	80
Central												
Altoona/Blair	70	31	48	1	0.10	3	0.13	-1.42	4	31	13	136
DuBois	63	27	44	-2	0.28	4	0.39	-1.26	6	8	6	69
Lewistown	70	31	48	-2	0.29	5	0.57	-0.83	7	15	-7	132
Middletown	72	35	52	2	0.15	2	0.31	-1.22	4	41	11	171
Prince Gallitzi	66	28	43	-2	0.21	2	0.26	-1.84	3	0	-3	57
Selinsgrove	70	29	46	-2	0.11	2	0.27	-1.27	4	5	-11	97
State College	67	32	47	0	0.22	4	0.37	-1.04	7	10	2	107
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	72	29	50	2	0.07	2	0.36	-1.32	4	30	11	134
Lehighton	71	29	48	-2	0.04	1	0.30	-1.23	3	8	-6	90
Matamoras	70	33	49	2	0.08	2	0.38	-1.53	3	8	-1	96
Mt_Pocono	67	27	46	5	0.18	3	0.48	-1.49	4	14	14	72
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	63	32	48	0	0.43	4	0.59	-0.93	5	21	4	132
Indiana_PA	64	28	45	-3	0.33	3	0.48	-1.32	4	15	-1	93
Myersdale	64	27	40	-7	0.30	3	0.67	-1.28	4	1	-6	46
Chalk_Hill	63	28	42	-8	0.76	4	1.76	-0.11	6	1	-20	51
Pittsburgh Intl	63	30	48	-2	0.46	4	0.61	-0.97	5	25	5	129
Connellsville	68	32	47	-3	0.53	2	1.01	-0.86	4	12	-9	117
Waynesburg	66	27	45	-3	0.46	2	0.56	-1.12	3	5	-8	94
South Central												
Biglerville	73	34	51	0	0.19	1	0.75	-0.90	3	36	6	161
Everett	70	27	45	-4	0.34	3	0.41	-1.22	4	9	-2	97
Hanover	72	30	49	-2	0.11	2	0.55	-1.10	4	18	-12	130
Harrisburg_AP	73	34	53	3	0.23	2	0.42	-1.11	4	51	21	183
South Mountain	67	28	46	-3	0.19	1	0.60	-0.95	3	5	-10	85
York	71	28	50	-2	0.13	2	0.63	-1.17	4	27	-3	128
Southeast												
Green Lane	71	34	51	3	0.03	1	0.21	-1.56	3	21	5	136
Hamburg	71	33	49	3	0.06	1	0.17	-1.64	2	19	12	127
West_Chester	72	28	50	-1	0.00	0	0.23	-1.63	1	19	-9	121
Lancaster	71	32	50	2	0.10	2	0.22	-1.43	4	29	9	140
Neshaminy Falls	82	31	52	4	0.00	0	0.23	-1.72	3	33	14	157
New Holland	80	33	52	4	0.06	1	0.22	-1.43	2	45	25	177
Philadelphia	73	41	55	5	0.04	1	0.37	-1.43	2	59	25	198
Philadelphia NE	71	38	53	3	0.02	1	0.21	-1.59	3	40	6	168
Reading	72	31	52	4	0.04	1	0.19	-1.65	2	41	27	164
Sellersville	70	29	49	0	0.02	1	0.23	-1.54	3	18	2	105
Doylestown_AG	72	33	51	2	0.02	1	0.28	-1.67	3	26	7	139

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney

Producers are busy in the fields preparing for planting season. No corn or soybeans have been planted yet as the producers are awaiting soil temperature to warm. Fertilizer and manure are being applied for future crops. Wheat, barley and rye planted last fall look pretty decent but where it was wet, some of those areas were drowned out. Oats planted earlier in late February and March are looking pretty good, but could use some showers to help it grow. Some new seedings of hay are being planted. Established hay continues to grow but could also use some moisture. Fruit growers are now seeing their apple trees blossom, which is the last of the fruit trees to bloom. They are also concerned with the morning temperatures possibly damaging blossoms and affecting the future yields. Some days the wind has been up enough to prevent the temperatures from dropping as low as they could have. There have been reports of cherries being affected by cold temperatures a few weeks ago; some damage for peaches also. Time will tell on all of the fruit as to what affect the cold temperatures had due to all fruit being about 3 weeks early. Strawberries are in blossom but some of those earlier varieties will be affected by cold temperatures when they were blooming. Overall, the county producers are doing pretty good and some are ahead of schedule as far as field preparation, just awaiting the planting of corn and soybeans. Producers will probably be busy harvesting forage and planting at the same time this year.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Good week for continuing field work; the area only received a 1/8 inch of rainfall for the week.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

We had 3 days this week where temps dipped to 20 degrees and the frost covered the ground. Hay crop has been nipped. Farmers spreading lime, fertilizer, and preparing fields for spring plantings. Many acres of small grains were planted along with new seedings.

CLINTON COUNTY, Judy Bergenstock

Pastures conditions appear to be good but the growth is slow.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Only very spotty showers this week. All spring field work is well underway and some corn is now being planted, as well as hauling manure and spreading fertilizer this week. It appears that the cool temperatures spared the fruit crops except for sweet cherries and apricots. Alfalfa is looking great, may be some chopped yet this month.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill

Getting very dry; new seedings of alfalfa are drying up and dying - especially in worked ground.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Freeze and frost damage continue to be the hot topic of discussion among the area orchards, as damage has re-occurred several times this past week. Many of the sweet corn growers have planted early strips and covered with floating row covers. All types of field work are being completed at record speed due to the excellent moisture conditions.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA)

We have had very little moisture in the last week and most fields are dry enough to complete tillage work.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Less than one tenth an inch of rain for the week. High winds have caused a lot of moisture loss. However, the wheat and barley crop is looking good. The early seeded oats have emerged very well but need rain. The later seeded oats and alfalfa are not emerging due to a lack of moisture and below normal temperatures. The main field activities for the week were manure spreading, machinery maintenance, as well as seeding and plowing.

TIOGA COUNTY, J. Craig

The creeks and rivers are dropping as the trees started to leave out, even wet fields are getting dry.

UNION COUNTY, Glenn L. Spangler

Cool mornings and dry conditions prevented planting this past week. Some ground worked and pre-plant spraying for no-till cropping. Still some manure is being placed on cropland.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega

Cool, dry weather this week has allowed for spring field work to be ahead of schedule. Frost several days this week and snow 1 day this week. Could use some moisture. Top soil starting to dry out.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 15, 2012

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	59	8	27
Corn, planted	5	0	2
Barley, heading or headed	5	0	0
Oats, planted	78	3	27
Oats, emerged	42	0	4
Tobacco beds, planted	74	61	35
Apples, in pink	83	0	14
Apples, in full bloom or past	65	na	na

na = data not available

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 15, 2012

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	2	9	59	30
Pasture	1	4	28	42	25

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